

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /056 W
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O 051215Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3439

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EFIM, EAID, CG

SUBJECT: PANAM - AIR ZAIRE CONTRACT

1. ACTING PANAM TAP TEAM CHIEF MIX INFORMS US THAT HE HAS IT FROM THREE SOURCES--ONE OF THEM ZAIRIAN AND "VERY GOOD"--THAT UTA WILL SHORTLY TAKE OVER THE AIR ZAIRE CONTRACT FROM PANAM. MIX SAYS UTA'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS IN TOWN, HAS SEEN MOBUTU AND HAS THE CONTRACT SEWED UP. MIX HAS RELAYED THIS RUMOR TO HIS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK.

2. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HEARD THAT UTA WAS MOVING OUT OF THE WINGS TO CENTER STAGE, BUT THE TAP TEAM'S PERSISTENT DIFFICULTIES OVER THE LAST FOUR MONTHS, THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT'S ATTITUDE AND THE ALLEGED US COMPLICITY IN THE PLOT AGAINST MOBUTU ADD UP TO A SITUATION WHERE IT MAY INDEED HAPPEN. JUST AS WORRISOME IS A FOOTNOTE TO MIX'S RUMOR TO EFFECT THAT "MOBUTU IS OUT TO CANCEL ALL US CONTRACTS."

3. PANAM REP GATT HAS HEARD THAT UTA WILL GET ONLY MAINTENANCE PART OF CONTRACT.

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FYI HE ALSO BELIEVES PANAM HAD BADLY MISPLAYED ITS HAND

AND "DESERVES WHAT IT GETS." IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE
IS LITTLE WE CAN DO HERE. WE DO AGREE WITH MIX,
THOUGH, THAT IF PANAM NEW YORK WANTS TO SAVE CONTRACT,
THEY HAD BETTER SEND A BIG GUN--BIGGER THAN RICE.
ANDREW

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Message Attributes

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